Appointment in KVS

4653. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 417, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 2001 and state:

(a) the dates when the said six candidates had been offered appointments and dates on which the other ones of different categories had been given appointments in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(b) the details if needs and urgency for offering appointments to the said six candidates, ahead of the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Difference between urban and rural areas in literacy rate

4654. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big difference between the urban and rural areas in regard to literacy rate;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to reduce the difference during the last three years;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided for bridging or reducing this difference during the same period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to NFHS-2, 1998 released in November, 2000, the literacy rate is 80.1 per cent in urban areas and 56.7 per cent in rural areas. The urban-rural differential has reduced from 28.4 per cent in 1991 to 23.4 per cent in 1998.